

REMARKS

In the Official Action mailed on **April 21, 2005**, the Examiner reviewed claims 1-3, 5, 7-9, 11-13, 15-17, 19-21, and 23-34. Claims 26, 29, and 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Maier et al. (USPN 5,625,815, hereinafter “Maier”) in view of Klein (USPN 5,404,509, hereinafter “Klein”). Claims 27-28, 30-31, and 33-34 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Claims 1-3, 5, 7-9, 11-13, 15-17, 19-21, and 23-25 are allowable.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 26, 29, and 32 were rejected as being unpatentable over Maier in view of Klein.


Applicant has amended independent claims 26, 29, and 32 to include allowable limitations from dependent claims 27, 30, and 33, respectively. Dependent claims 27, 30, and 33 have been canceled without prejudice. Dependent claims 28, 31, and 34 have been amended to correct antecedent basis.

Hence, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 9, 17, 26, 29, and 32 as presently amended are in condition for allowance. Applicant also submits that claims 3, 5, 7-8, and 25, which depend upon claim 1, claims 11-13 and 15-16, which depend upon claim 9, claims 19-21 and 23-24, which depend upon claim 17, claim 28, which depends upon claim 26, claim 31, which depends upon claim 29, and claim 34, which depends upon claim 32, are for the same reasons in condition for allowance and for reasons of the unique combinations recited in such claims.

CONCLUSION

It is submitted that the present application is presently in form for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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